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Tribute to Colonel James B. Seaton, III

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the United States Marine Corps are exceptional. Our country has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent to keep this country free and safe. United States Marine Colonel James B. Seaton III is one of these individuals. On June 25, 2009, a ceremony will be held on the occasion of his relinquishing command of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton as he leaves to assume the prestigious posting as Director of Commander's Initiative Group under General David Petraeus.

Col. Seaton received his master's degree in political science from Duke University and later earned a Master of Strategic Science from the U.S. Army War College. Serving in many capacities over the years, Col. Seaton provided support for our country in places such as Grenada, Beirut, Japan, Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific and the Indian Ocean. In 2001, he reported to the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California for duty as Division Inspector and Deputy G-7 before assuming command of 1st Battalion, 11th Marines in June 2002 and led the battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In June 2004, he transferred to Twentynine Palms, California for assignment as the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command G-3 and was promoted to Colonel in September 2004.

Apart from his active duty service, Col. Seaton served as a political science instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy where he received the "William P. Clements Award for Excellence in Education" as the top military instructor. He has also been a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Pacific Council on International Policy, Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces & Society and other various military associations.

Col. Seaton's tireless passion for service has contributed to the betterment of this country. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star with Combat V, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with three Gold Stars, Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon with two Gold Stars, and the Presidential Service Badge. I am proud to call James a fellow community member, American and friend. On behalf of the people of the United States whom he has served with courage and honor, we commemorate the service of Colonel James B. Seaton III and congratulate him on his new post.